

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

RAEJAH BLACKWELL,

Defendant.

DECISION AND ORDER
19-CR-170-A

This case was referred to Magistrate Judge Michael J. Roemer pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) for the conduct of pretrial proceedings. On March 7, 2024, Defendant Raejah Blackwell appeared before Magistrate Judge Roemer and entered a plea of guilty to Count 17 of the Second Superseding Indictment (Dkt. No. 70), which charges her with Obstructing an Official Proceeding, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2), pursuant to a written plea agreement. (Dkt. No. 632).

Magistrate Judge Roemer issued a Report and Recommendation (Dkt. No. 635) confirming his oral findings that Defendant's plea of guilty was knowing, voluntary, and supported by a factual basis. No timely objections to the Report and Recommendation have been filed. It is hereby

ORDERED that, upon review of the Second Superseding Indictment (Dkt. No. 70), the plea agreement (Dkt. No. 635), and the plea transcript (Dkt. No. 646) of the March 7, 2024, change-of-plea proceeding before the Magistrate Judge; and the Report and Recommendation, the Court finds that all the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Rule 11 have been carefully followed. Defendant's plea of guilty

was knowing, voluntary, and supported by a factual basis. The Magistrate Judge informed Defendant, who was placed under oath and addressed personally in open court, of Defendant's rights and the trial rights she was waiving should the Court accept her plea of guilty, the nature of the charge to which she was pleading guilty, and any maximum possible penalty, among the other requirements listed in the Rule. The Magistrate Judge determined that Defendant understood the foregoing. Accordingly, Defendant's plea of guilty is accepted based upon the oral findings of the Magistrate Judge as confirmed in the written Report and Recommendation.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 31, 2024 at 12:30 pm. The parties are directed to the Court's forthcoming Text Order for the submission of sentencing documents.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Richard J. Arcara
HONORABLE RICHARD J. ARCARA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Dated: March 27, 2024
Buffalo, New York